

Weekly Newscast Lesson Plan



Learning English with CBC is a joint project with
CBC Calgary, CBC Edmonton and the Government of Alberta



Calgary

March 20, 2017

Objectives:

- To develop listening skills
- To increase vocabulary
- To increase knowledge of current events
- To provide an authentic learning resource

Contents:

- Three news stories
- Vocabulary building activities
- Listening comprehension activities
- Transcripts
- Answer keys

News story #1 Alberta Finance Minister presents budget (0:14)

Setting the Scene



Finance Minister Joe Ceci. (CBC file photo)

In Canada, every year, governments create budgets. The provinces, territories and the federal government all make these plans. The budgets outline how much money they have, how much money they expect to gain or lose, and how they plan to spend money. These plans are made public, so that experts, journalists and average citizens can all see the governments' spending plans. These budgets will explain how much money will be spent on services for Canadians, such as schools, health care and transportation.

Pre-listening Questions

How do you handle your money? Do you create a budget for yourself?

Do you think it's easy or difficult to follow a budget? Why?

In your country, are government budgets public? Can anybody read them?

Vocabulary

Find the definition (Multiple Choice)

Learning some of the new words you will hear in the listening will help you understand the news story. Read the sentences below and choose the best definition for the words in **bold**.

Answers are in the appendix.

1. Students who want to work in banking should take classes in **finance** and math.
 - a. related to numbers
 - b. related to money
2. Many citizens were worried about house prices, so City Hall **presented** a plan to help control prices.
 - a. introduced to a group or to the public
 - b. gave to customers for free
3. When the economy is healthy, stores and restaurants see **increases** in business.
 - a. become bigger
 - b. become more complicated
4. When shopping in Canada, remember that prices do not **include** tax or tips for services.
 - a. have or contain
 - b. mix together
5. University can be expensive for some people, so they borrow money and take on **debt**.
 - a. money earned by someone
 - b. money owed to someone
6. In some apartment rentals, the cost of water, electricity and gas is part of the **overall** price.
 - a. with too many parts
 - b. with everything covered
7. Education can be expensive, but it is an important **investment** for job opportunities.
 - a. spending money on something that needs to be fixed
 - b. spending money on something important for the future
8. Learning how to manage money is not easy. For many, it is an **ongoing** challenge that can last years.
 - a. continuing to happen
 - b. never happening again

Extra definitions to help you understand the listening:

deficit – an amount of money that is less than what is needed, the amount of debt planned

longterm care – health services for people with illnesses that last a long time

We encourage you to study these new words using this link: https://quizlet.com/_394uzo

You can practice online for free and as many times as you want to. The Quizlet app is a free vocabulary study tool. You can download it to your phone or tablet and practice new vocabulary whenever you have time.

Listening Task

Matching

Read the numbers below. As you listen to the audio, complete the sentences by matching the number with the correct information that follows.

Answers are in the appendix.

Number	Information	
2017/2018	•	• the province's expected deficit, in dollars
0	•	• number of tax increases
0	•	• the amount of overall debt this year
0	•	• number of new schools planned for Calgary
10.3 billion	•	• number of new taxes
45 billion	•	• the budget year for the province's new budget
71 billion	•	• number of big cuts to programs
200	•	• the expected amount of debt by 2019
5	•	• number of beds in Calgary's new long-term care facility

Food for Thought

In your opinion, what services should get more money from the province?

How do you think the government can save money in the future?

How do you think the government can get more money in the future?

News story #2 Explosion and fire at oilsands facility (1:19)

Setting the Scene



A fire burns at a Syncrude facility north of Fort McMurray (Pete Potipcoe/Facebook) (CBC file photo)

The Alberta oilsands are a major part of Canadian industry and Canada's economy. Thousands of people work in the oilsands, including Albertans, people from across Canada and new Canadians. The industry must follow many safety rules, so that the people who work in the oilsands and the people whose homes are near the oilsands, can be as safe as possible. However, oil is a material that must be handled very carefully. It can catch fire very easily. Even when people are safe, accidents can happen.

Pre-listening Questions

Why is oil such an important product?

Do you know anyone who works in the oil and gas industry?

What are the pros and cons of working in the oil and gas industry?

Vocabulary

Matching

To help you better understand the words in the news story, match the words with their definitions. Answers are in the appendix.

<u>Answer</u>	<u>Vocabulary word</u>	<u>Definition</u>
_____	temporarily (adv.)	1. working or functioning
_____	shut down (ph. v.)	2. relating to crime or illegal acts
_____	leak (n.)	3. continued, did not change
_____	running (v.)	4. search for the truth
_____	location (n.)	5. a sign or signal that shows something
_____	remained (v.)	6. for a limited amount of time
_____	injured (adj.)	7. physically hurt or harmed
_____	investigation (n.)	8. stopped running or operating
_____	indication (n.)	9. place or position
_____	criminal (adj.)	10. something (e.g., water, gas) accidentally coming though a hole

Extra definitions to help you understand the listening:

line failure – an accident involving a part of machinery not working well

upgrader – a machine that converts raw material from the earth into usable oil

Occupational Health and Safety – a provincial group that helps prevent and handle job safety and injuries that happen while working

RCMP – The Royal Canadian Mounted Police; Canada's federal police body

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Listening Activity

Answering True/False questions

Read the following statements. While you listen to the story, decide whether the statements are **true** or **false**. Write your answer in the blanks.

Answers are in the appendix.

1. ____ An explosion and fire temporarily shut down Syncrude's office.
2. ____ The facility is north of Fort McMurray.
3. ____ The event happened last month.
4. ____ The police say it was caused by a line failure and leak.
5. ____ Syncrude started work again on the same day.
6. ____ The location of the fire, the Mildred River upgrader, stayed closed.
7. ____ More than one person was injured.
8. ____ That person was sent to the hospital.
9. ____ Occupational Health and Safety is investigating the event.
10. ____ RCMP think it was a criminal event.

Food for thought

How can companies keep their employees safe?

What do you think will happen to the person who was injured? Will he or she go back to work?

Would you ever work a dangerous job? Why or why not?

News story #3 Calgary Flames win 10 games in a row (2:04)

Setting the Scene



Calgary Flames goalie Brian Elliott (Matthew Stockman/Getty Images) (CBC file photo)

Hockey is known as the national sport of Canada. Millions of people follow the sport and cheer for their favourite teams. The National Hockey League, which has teams in Canada and the U.S.A., has a final event every year. This is called playoffs. In this event, teams play against each other and try to win a very important trophy, the Stanley Cup. Winning this trophy is a big honour, and most hockey players dream about winning it.

Pre-listening Questions

Do you ever watch or play hockey? Do you like it?

When the Calgary Flames play a hockey game, do you notice any events in the city? What do people do to celebrate?

What are some popular sports in your country?

Vocabulary

Sentence Completion

Learning some of the new words you will hear in the listening will help you understand the news story. Use the vocabulary words below to complete the sentences. *Answers are in the appendix.*

recent (adj.)	happened not long ago
winning streak (phr. n.)	a period of winning again and again
struggled (v.)	tried very hard to do something difficult
in a row (phr. adv.)	following one after the other
franchise (n.)	a sports team that is part of a league
record (n.)	the best performance/achievement of its kind
hoping (v.)	wanting something to happen

1. Alberta has very proud hockey fans. Even when their teams have _____ with bad seasons, the fans are always supporting the teams and _____ for wins.
2. The Calgary Flames were a very strong team in the 1980s. They often had _____ in the season, and entered the playoffs for eleven years _____.
3. Hockey players are sometimes traded, which means they leave old teams and join new teams. Curtis Lazar, who used to play for Ottawa, is a _____ trade who is now part of the Flames.
4. Jarome Iginla is a very famous player for the Calgary Flames. He holds the _____ for playing the most games and scoring the most goals in the _____.

Extra words to help you better understand the listening:

playoffs – a series of games that determine the winner of a sports league

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Listening Activity

Multiple Choice

Read the following sentences. Then listen to the audio and circle the best answer to complete the sentences. *Answers are in the appendix.*

1. The Calgary Flames have had a recent _____ streak.	a) winter b) winning c) working
2. They hope it will help them earn a _____ in the National Hockey League playoffs.	a) spot b) score c) prize
3. The team struggled _____ in the season, but they have now won 10 games in a row.	a) lately b) poorly c) early
4. These 10 wins are a franchise _____.	a) risk b) reward c) record
5. Players and _____ were hoping to keep the winning streak going.	a) franchises b) forwards c) fans
6. The Flames lost to the Boston Bruins last _____.	a) Tuesday b) Wednesday c) weekend
7. The Flames scored _____ goals, but Boston scored _____.	a) 2 / 5 b) 2 / 4 c) 4 / 5

Food for thought

Who are your favourite sports teams? How did you choose to like them?

Have you ever gone to see a hockey game in Canada? Is it different from watching games in your country?

What advice would you give someone who wants to be a professional athlete?

Transcripts of Weekly news stories

	MARCH WEEKLY NEWS STORIES	TIME
Introduction	Hi. I'm Shannon Scott and this is learning English with the CBC for March 20th, with stories that made news over the past week.	0:00
Story 1	Finance Minister Joe Ceci has presented the province's budget for the 2017/2018 budget year. There are no new taxes, no tax increases, and no big cuts to programs. The budget does include new spending and a growing debt. This year, the province is expected to see a deficit of 10.3 billion dollars. That will mean the overall debt is 45 billion this year. That debt is expected to grow to just over 71 billion dollars by 2019. Calgary will be seeing some investment, including a new 200-bed long-term care facility, more money for the ongoing construction of the Calgary Cancer Centre, and 5 new schools.	0:14
Story 2	An explosion and fire temporarily shut down Syncrude's oilsands facility north of Fort McMurray last week. The company says it was caused by a line failure and leak. Syncrude was back up and running the same day, but the location of the fire, the Mildred Lake upgrader, remained closed down. One person was injured and sent to hospital. Occupational Health and Safety is leading the investigation. RCMP say there is no indication this was a criminal event.	1:19
Story 3	The Calgary Flames are hoping their recent winning streak will help them earn a spot in the National Hockey League playoffs. After the team struggled early in the season, they have now won 10 games in a row, which equals a franchise record. Players and fans were hoping to keep the winning streak going, but the Flames lost to the Boston Bruins last Wednesday. That game saw them score 2 goals to Boston's 5.	2:04

Answer keys

News story 1 Alberta Finance Minister presents budget (0:11)

Vocabulary

1. Students who want to work in banking should take classes in **finance** and math.
 - a. related to numbers
 - b. related to money
2. Many citizens were worried about house prices, so City Hall **presented** a plan to help control prices.
 - a. introduced to a group or to the public
 - b. gave to customers for free
3. When the economy is healthy, stores and restaurants see **increases** in business.
 - a. become bigger
 - b. become more complicated
4. When shopping in Canada, remember that prices do not **include** tax, or tips for services.
 - a. have or contain
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0	the amount of overall debt this year
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45 billion	the budget year for the province's new budget
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Vocabulary

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<u>6</u>	temporarily (adv.)	1. working or functioning
<u>8</u>	shut down (ph. v.)	2. relating to crime or illegal acts
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<u>9</u>	location (n.)	5. a sign or signal that shows something
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<u>4</u>	investigation (n.)	8. stopped running or operating
<u>5</u>	indication (n.)	9. place or position
<u>2</u>	criminal (adj.)	10. something (e.g., water, gas) accidentally coming through a hole

Listening

1. F An explosion and fire temporarily shut down Syncrude's office.
2. T The facility is north of Fort McMurray.
3. F The event happened last month.
4. F The police say it was caused by a line failure and leak.
5. T Syncrude started work again on the same day.
6. F The location of the fire, the Mildred River upgrader, stayed closed.
7. F More than one person was injured.
8. T That person was sent to the hospital.
9. T Occupational Health and Safety is investigating the event.
10. F RCMP think it was a criminal event.

News story 3

Calgary Flames win 10 games in a row (2:04)

Vocabulary

1. Alberta has very proud hockey fans. Even when their teams have struggled with bad seasons, the fans are always supporting the teams and hoping for wins.
2. The Calgary Flames were a very strong team in the 1980s. They often had winning streaks in the season, and entered the playoffs for eleven years in a row.
3. Hockey players are sometimes traded, which means they leave old teams and join new teams. Curtis Lazar, who used to play for Ottawa, is a recent trade who is now part of the Flames.
4. Jarome Iginla is a very famous player for the Calgary Flames. He holds the record for playing the most games and scoring the most goals in the franchise.

Listening

1. The Calgary Flames have had a recent _____ streak.	a) winter b) winning c) working
2. They hope it will help them earn a _____ in the National Hockey League playoffs.	a) spot b) score c) prize
3. The team struggled _____ in the season, but they have now won 10 games in a row.	a) lately b) poorly c) early
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